

BYE 2747-67
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14 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6734

1. Following is a summary of Mission Number BX6734. A general critique will not be held due to a special investigation of hostile activity encountered on this mission. Formal briefings will be held on investigations findings.

2. Mission Data:

- a. Mission Number: BX6734
- b. Date Flown: 30 October 1967
- c. Area of Operation: North Vietnam
- d. Mission Success: Successful
- e. Pilot's Name: Sullivan
- f. Aircraft Number: 129
- g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
- h. Takeoff Time - Planned: 0220Z
Actual: 0219Z
- i. Landing Time - Planned: 0607Z
Actual: 0603Z
- j. Time Enroute - Planned: 3+47
Actual: 3+44
- k. Departure Base: Kadena Air Base
- l. Landing Base: Kadena Air Base
- m. Equipment:

J66#69B00404R
Box#1 Folder 25

(1) Primary: Type I, BW, PIN PEG, MAD MOTH, BLUE
DOG II, SYS VI

(2) Spare: Same as primary.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2007

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

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3. Operations:

a. Route (INS Plot vs. Planned): Satisfactory.

(1) INS Terminal Error: 9.4 NM

(2) INS Spec Error: 9.9 NM

b. Mission Generation & Operational Support: Satisfactory.

4. Weather:

a. Forecast vs. Actual:

(1) As briefed.

(2) Comments: 417 satellite data indicated 50 per cent of both flight lines would be Cat II conditions. [] reported 40 per cent cloud on Pass One and 65 per cent cloud on Pass Two.

b. Weather Scout Reporting: Satisfactory.

5. Intelligence:

a. Target Coverage:

(1) 19 of 26 programmed targets covered.

(2) 6 first priority SSM targets of 9 covered.

(3) 17 of 27 first priority NVN COMOR targets covered.

(4) 90 SAM sites, 13 sites occupied, 1 new site

(5) 8 other priority NVN COMOR targets covered.

(6) Comments: This mission obtained valuable information on targets in the Red River basin, including the port of Haiphong. A high level of activity was noted at the port. Although clouds obscured some areas, broad coverage was acquired on the high priority SSM search areas. No evidence of SSM was noted.

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b. Quality of Take: Satisfactory.

- (1) Resolution: Good.
- (2) Camera Operation: Normal.



d. Significant Findings: At least six SAMs were launched at mission aircraft from the general Hanoi area while aircraft was on its second pass. There is no clear evidence that a missile firing was made against the aircraft on the first pass. If a firing occurred, it most likely was directed against another type aircraft.

e. EWS Activations: There were system activations of short duration on the first pass and sustained activations on the second pass during the period the missile firings took place.

f. Take Movement:

- (1) Photography: Satisfactory.
- (2) ELINT: Satisfactory.

6. Materiel:

a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory.

(1) Comments: SC&DM did not operate due to a broken wire. Autopilot pitch trim did not operate properly. Pitch gyro was changed and autopilot operation was normal on next flight.

b. Aircraft Systems: Satisfactory.

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7. Communications: Satisfactory.

- a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory.
- b. BIRDWATCHER: Satisfactory.
- c. UHF/HF Commo: Satisfactory.

8. Significant Actions Taken:

Special investigation now in progress to determine OXCART SAM vulnerability. This will be subject of separate report.

9. Outstanding Actions Required:

Complete SAM vulnerability study and submit report as soon as practical (Office of Special Activities, Office of ELINT and

[REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

WILLIAM E. SHELTON

Colonel, USAF

Deputy for Operations, OSA

OXC/O/OSA/[REDACTED]
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